

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/472,062

Examiner

Maikhanh Nguyen

Applicant(s)

OHASHI, TADASHI

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the telephonic interview on 09/26/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4 and 6-11 (now renumbered as 1-10).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

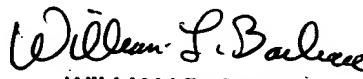
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ATTACHED
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Examiner's Amendment

- I. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

- II. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Temnit Afework (Reg. No. 31,106) on 09/26/2007.

The claims have been amended as specifies by Applicant in the Amendment submitted on 09/27/2007, which is attached hereto.

Contact information

- III. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Maikhanh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4093. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00am – 5:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Doug Hutton can be reached at (571) 272-4137.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:
Commissioner for patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

MN

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated document management system comprising:

a storage unit which stores therein a document database comprising a plurality of documents that are files together forming a hierarchical structure comprising an upper hierarchy layer and a lower hierarchy layer ranked below the upper hierarchy layer where document files, each containing a document, in the lower hierarchy are referenced above in the upper hierarchy layer, where the structure is defined with hypertext described in an extensible markup language (XML);

a management information database comprising management information comprising an XML file defining the hierarchical structure by indicating a relation between a document in the upper hierarchy layer and a document in the lower hierarchy layer, a document type definition file describing information on a version number of each document, and a document style sheet file defining a style of each document, where the document in the upper hierarchy layer is separate and distinct from the document in the lower hierarchy layer;

a server connected to said storage unit and provided with a manager of the documents;

a client connected via a network to said server and retrieves together, based on the management information, by accessing said server, both the document in the upper hierarchy layer and the document in the lower hierarchy layer each having a specified version number, from the document database; and

a printer connected to the client, the printer making a hard copy of a document displayed at the client;

wherein the printer makes the hard copy of the document displayed at the client, including overlaid predetermined characters, in response to a tag in the XML file being included in the management information which instructs to overlay the predetermined characters superimposed on the document displayed at the client, when copying is selected at the client, when the document is determined to be printed according to importance degree thereof, and when the management information includes a-the tag in the XML file, and

the management information includes information related to a security level corresponding to each of the plurality of documents, and said server displays a warning message coping permitted or copying inhibited of document according to the security level, and the security level is dependent upon a pertinence determination level based on a predetermined rule.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The integrated document management system according to Claim 1, wherein the management information includes information indicating a collection of a plurality of documents in a same layer and each version number of the plurality of documents, and said client retrieves, based on the management information, by accessing from said server the collection of the plurality of documents in the same layer, the documents retrieved each having a specified version number, from the document database.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The integrated document management system according to Claim 1, wherein said server registers, when a document registered in the document database is updated, the updated document in the document database, and also updates the version number information in the management information related to the document.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The integrated document management system according to Claim 3, wherein said client sends via the network to said server retrieval information for a document that has been retrieved, and said server sends via the network to said client, when a document corresponding to the retrieval information is updated, updating information related to the document updated.

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A document retrieval device used in an integrated document management system having

a storage unit which stores therein a document database comprising a plurality of documents that are files together forming a hierarchical structure comprising an upper hierarchy layer and a lower hierarchy layer ranked below the upper layer hierarchy where document files, each containing a document, in the lower hierarchy are referenced above in the upper hierarchy layer, where the structure is defined with hypertext described in an extensible markup language (XML);

a management information database comprising management information comprising an XML file defining the hierarchical structure by indicating a relation between a document in the

Art Unit: 2176

upper hierarchy layer and a document in the lower hierarchy layer, a document type definition file describing information on a version number of each document, and a document style sheet file defining a style of each document, where the document in the upper hierarchy layer is separate and distinct from the document in the lower hierarchy layer; and

a server connected to said storage unit and provided with a manager of the documents, said document retrieval device retrieving together, based on the management information, both the document in the upper hierarchy layer and the document in the lower hierarchy layer in a specified version number from the document database;

wherein the management information includes a tag in the XML file which instructs to overlay predetermined characters superimposed on the document, such that a printer at a client makes a hard copy of the retrieved document including the overlaid characters, when copying is selected at the client, when the document is determined to be printed according to importance degree thereof, and when the management information includes the tag in the XML file, and

the management information includes information related to a security level corresponding to each of the plurality of documents, and said server displays a warning message coping permitted or copying inhibited of document according to the security level, and the security level is dependent upon a pertinence determination level based on a predetermined rule.

7. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The document retrieving device according to Claim 6; wherein the management information includes information indicating a collection of a plurality of documents in a same layer and a version number of each of the plurality of documents, and a plurality of documents on the same layer in a specified version number are retrieved from the document database based on the management information, by accessing from said server the collection of the plurality of documents.

8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The document retrieval device according to Claim 6, wherein the management information includes information related to a security level corresponding to each of the plurality of documents, and the documents are retrieved from the document database according to a permission of retrieval corresponding to the security level.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A computer-readable recording medium storing document retrieval instructions used in an integrated document management system, which, when executed by a computer, causes the computer to function as:

a storage unit which stores therein a document database comprising a plurality of documents that are files together forming a hierarchical structure comprising an upper hierarchy layer and a lower hierarchy layer ranked below the upper hierarchy layer where document files, each containing a document, in the lower hierarchy are referenced above in the upper hierarchy layer, where the structure is defined with hypertext described in an extensible markup language (XML);

a management information database comprising management information comprising an XML file defining the hierarchical structure by indicating a relation between a document in the upper hierarchy layer and a document in the lower hierarchy layer, a document type definition file describing information on a version number of each document, and a document style sheet file defining a style of each document, where the document in the upper hierarchy layer is separate and distinct from the document in the lower hierarchy layer; and

a server connected to the storage unit and provided with a manager of the documents, the document retrieval instructions retrieving together, based on the management information, both the document in the upper hierarchy layer and the document in the lower hierarchy layer in a specified version number, from the document database;

wherein the management information includes a tag in the XML file which instructs to overlay predetermined characters superimposed on the document, such that a printer at a client makes a hard copy of the retrieved document including the overlaid characters, when copying is selected at the client, when the document is determined to be printed according to importance thereof, and when the management information includes the tag in the XML file, and

the management information includes information related to a security level corresponding to each of the plurality of documents, and said server displays a warning message coping permitted or copying inhibited of document according to the security level, and the security level is dependent upon a pertinence determination level based on a predetermined rule.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-readable recording medium with a document retrieval program recorded therein according to Claim 9; wherein the management

Art Unit: 2176

information includes information indicating a collection of a plurality of documents in a same layer and a version number of each of the plurality of documents, and in the step described above, a plurality of documents on the same layer in a specified version number are retrieved from the document database according to the management information by accessing said server.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The computer-readable recording medium with a document retrieval program recorded therein according to Claim 9, wherein the management information includes information related to a security level corresponding to each of the plurality of documents, and in the step described above, the documents are retrieved from the document database according to a permission of retrieval corresponding to the security level.

12-15. (CANCELLED)


WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER